

CITY OF MINER
BOARD OF ALDERMEN
SPECIAL OPEN MEETING
MINER COURT ROOM
July 30, 2012
5:00 p.m.

The Miner Board of Alderman met for a special council meeting on July 30, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. The meeting was posted in the foyer of the city hall and sent to the Standard-Democrat newspaper.

Mayor Tatum called the meeting to order. Roll call: Terry Cole – present, Peggy Holman – present, Deloris Smith – present. Those present were Randall Briggs, Stephanie Turner, Chris Smith, Chief of Police Chris Griggs, Marvin Hatton, Tod Ledbetter, Harold Tarrants and Jimmy Alsop. Joseph Fuchs was in his capacity as city attorney and City Clerk Danielle Patrick was there to record the minutes.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. DISCUSSING BUDGET AMENDMENTS FOR 2011-2012

Mayor Tatum informed everyone that we did not meet the budget for the year 2011-2012. Mayor Tatum stated that since we did not meet the budgeted expenses the city was going to have to cut somewhere in the upcoming year so that this issue did not happen for 2012-2013. Mayor Tatum also stated that the budget will have to be amended at the next meeting. Mayor Tatum asked the clerk what the general fund was over budget now and she stated \$84,440.70 at a deficit at this time. Mayor Tatum asked if the \$84,000 was the number that we had to try to fix and the clerk stated that there is nothing that can be done with this year it is what it is this year.

The clerk stated that the police department is \$66,739.50 over budget at this point. The clerk stated that there was a significant amount of overtime in the police department and when you have a large amount of overtime it not only increases your payroll, but it affects payroll taxes and retirement. The clerk stated that the police department was budgeted \$253,000 for payroll for the officers and was going to have to be amended to \$275,000 which is an increase of \$22,000 in payroll alone for the police department. The clerk also stated that retirement, drug testing, vehicle maintenance, vehicle fuel, uniforms, equipment repairs and maintenance, payroll taxes, printing and publications, miscellaneous expense, K-9 expenses and equipment purchases were all going to have to be amended for the police department.

The clerk stated that the administration portion of the general fund was going to have to be amended and the amendments are for the addition of the new position of administration assistant, sanitation services and for the increase in the amount of \$25,625 to miscellaneous expenses due to the repairs to the storm drain, but if you look in the transfers from capital improvement you will see an increase in income for the transfer of money to compensate general fund for the repairs to the storm drain pumps.

The clerk stated that there were amendments to the municipal court portion of the general fund and those amendments are due to the new administrative assistant helping get the court more organized by ordering folders for better filing and etc, as well as an increase in attorney fees due to an increase in court cases.

The clerk stated that at this time there are not any amendments to the dispatch portion of general fund and they are currently coming in at an estimated \$7100 at this time.

The clerk stated that the fire department is going to have to be amended in different areas and those areas are payroll, drug testing, and fuel and payroll taxes. But as a whole they are coming in under budget as of now by approximately \$4900.

City Clerk Danielle Patrick explained that the other department's budgets are not requiring large amendments as of right now and she has been focusing on the general fund since it was so bad.

B. DISCUSSING BUDGET FOR 2012-2013

Mayor Tatum stated that he feels that the city should look at cutting in the department that was over the most and that was the police department. Mayor Tatum stated that he feels that the overtime and calling in people that is unnecessary needs to stop and it is strictly up to the board on any way to stop it. Alderwoman Deloris Smith asked Chief Griggs how to he determine how much overtime is being worked, and Chief Griggs stated that he was flying blind and he did not receive copies of the budget. Mayor Tatum stated that he did not think that two officers were needed at each stop unless they are

not needed. Mayor Tatum stated that according to the ordinance the chief is to work 40 hours per week and Griggs signed this ordinance so therefore when someone is sick he should not be calling in extra officers during the day he should be covering himself. Alderwoman Deloris Smith stated that he was on call for 24 hours a day. The clerk stated that on July 23, 2012 Chief Griggs called someone in two hours early because Officer Stewart went home sick and this officer worked 14 hours that day. Mayor Tatum stated that the budget would be cut one way or another even if an officer has to be cut. Mayor Tatum stated that he does not want to cut an officer, but if that is what it takes it will be done. Alderwoman Deloris Smith asked that once we get the budget figured out if the clerk can give a weekly report as to what the chief of police has spent on payroll etc. The clerk stated that she could give him a monthly report as she does the council on what his expenses are on a monthly basis so that he knows where he is on a monthly basis. Alderwoman Deloris Smith stated then he could be responsible for the overtime. Mayor Tatum asked why there is so much overtime for the police department. Mayor Tatum stated that there is overtime with full-time employees and there are part-time employees and he does not understand why we have both. The clerk stated the part-timers are filling in for Kevin Harris, but she does not understand why Dover was called in for shift coverage two hours early when the chief was on. Mayor Tatum asked Griggs why this was and Griggs responded that he locked himself in his office working on the budget because he was trying to concentrate solely on this. Mayor Tatum told Griggs that he felt that he should have worked those two hours and covered the shift and that is the only way we are going to get the overtime down. That if Griggs is not going to work then he needs to buck up like he has been and say you aren't going to do it and the board will do what they have to do. Chief Griggs stated that it is not that easy it is his responsibility to make sure everything is functional and they are right from time to time things can be done differently and when it comes to the operation of the police department that is what he is responsible for. Mayor Tatum stated that things are being seen differently that he is the marshal that he is 24/7 and even if he has to patrol by himself he needs to do so. Mayor Tatum stated that the State Statute requires him to make sure the city is protected and that is the marshal's responsibility.

Chief Griggs stated that their call volume is 22.8% higher this year than it was last year. Griggs stated that if someone calls in sick and someone is on vacation we still have to cover overtime and he stated that he is up to doing something different. Alderman Peggy Holman asked if it was in the handbook where two people in the same department cannot be out at the same time. Clerk Danielle Patrick stated that they have to have all vacation approved in her office one week prior to vacation and they do not allow two people to be on vacation at a time.

Alderwoman Peggy Holman stated that we could cut a lot of departments. Alderwoman Holman stated that she feels that the insurance is too high and over the weekend she came off of a job and a volunteer fireman's truck was up on the racks being worked on. Alderwoman stated that this is a fire department and it is a garage. Alderwoman stated that we should cut all departments. Mayor Tatum said that we should look at the department that is over. Alderwoman stated that the deductible needed to be raised and that she has talked to a lot of people that has a \$2500 deductible, but hers is not that high, but she still has to pay it. Alderwoman stated that Alderman Cole's is high because he stated that in the prior meeting. Alderwoman Holman also stated that she thought the insurance should be bid out for cheaper rates.

Mayor Tatum stated a \$2500 deductible is a lot of money for the employee to come up with. Alderwoman Holman stated that the employees could make payments as she has had to do in the past. Mayor Tatum stated that there should be other ways that can be done to pay. Mayor Tatum stated the police officers could be staggered and that is where we are so far over is the police department and there is no way to get this down but by reducing labor.

Clerk Danielle Patrick stated that she is working on fuel cards, and she is waiting on the company to get back with her. Clerk Danielle Patrick stated that they had worked out a schedule that will cut down on \$31800 est. year by making the police department punch in and out for lunch and only one being able to go to lunch at the same time. The clerk stated that this would also fix Mr. Cole's issue of the police officers all going to lunch at the same time at the same place. Mayor Tatum stated that is better than being laid off. Alderwoman Deloris Smith stated that each one would have a different lunch time. Alderman Cole stated that the two officers on duty he did not know that Griggs was part of that.

Clerk Danielle Patrick stated that she and Chief Griggs had worked on a uniform allowance at one time and she felt that it would be a money saving avenue to start. Under the uniform allowance the city will still pay for all safety equipment and purchase the police officer 1 short sleeve shirt and pants in the spring and one long sleeve shirt and pants in the fall and the city will no longer pay for the alterations. When asked about the vests Alderman Terry Cole and Alderwoman Peggy Holman stated that they felt that the city should purchase all safety equipment and Alderman Cole went further stating that he felt that if an employee is not wearing his or her vest they should be sent home by the Chief without pay. Alderman Cole stated that he did not know why the Chief was not wearing his vest but if he is going out on the street he needs to be wearing it.

Alderwoman Holman mentioned that the city could save money by cutting out some holidays and Alderman Terry Cole stated that his office is open the day after Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and Presidents Day. The Public Works Department as a whole agreed to give up their individual overtime of 4 hours a each per month for comp time. After much discussion everyone came up with a mutual decision and all council members agreed that the police department will start

clocking in and out for lunch starting Wednesday 8-1-12 and overtime must be approved by the mayor, the public works employees will forgo their overtime that they earn on their on call weekends for comp time, and the clerk is to prepare an overtime policy for the next meeting.

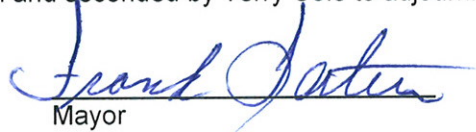
Mayor Tatum asked Jimmy Alsup if he had anything to add. Jimmy Alsup stated that a lot of departments are getting paid regular time for the holiday and they get that day off later in the month with pay. Jimmy Alsup also stated the city has some of the best benefits around that some places have gone up to \$5000 in deductibles and they have to pay \$100 per month for the employee, and once they hit the \$5000 deductible they are reimbursed \$2000. Mayor Tatum stated that the city has not yet done this.

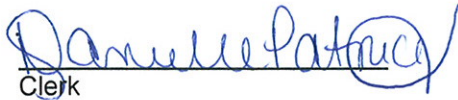
Alderwoman Deloris Smith asked Chris Griggs what his suggestion was for overtime. Chief Griggs stated that they will have to start flexing their overtime off as they have done before. Chief Griggs stated that if he needs to stay over to fill in when short to fix the overtime then he will. Chief Griggs stated that he will try to do better next time. Chief Griggs stated that the employees will start filling out the reports on the cars with every shift as they have done in the past in order to keep up with car maintenance.

C. DISCUSSING TAX LEVY

Mayor Tatum stated the he felt that the property taxes will remain the same for the upcoming year. Mayor Tatum stated the tax levy hearing will be held on August 21, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. before the regular meeting.

With all business concluded a motion was made by Deloris Smith and seconded by Terry Cole to adjourn. A roll call was taken with all ayes. Meeting adjourned.


Mayor


Clerk